

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 23 with the following rewritten

paragraph:

a4
--Therefore, the picture to select a character for personal ID shown in Fig. 20 is displayed on the monitor picture 4A. At step SP13, the user inputs the user's personal ID with an interactive system on a picture. In Fig. 20, one of characters "A" to "E" is specified so that one of the five characters can be registered as a personal ID character of a specific user who input a profile at this time.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2 and 8, without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 1, 3-7 and 9-12 as follows:

Sub B1
a5
--1. (Amended) An information retrieval method, comprising the steps of:
forming a specific user's own specific user model based on general user selection taste data comprising classification items and information contents on the basis of a general user group classified according to a user attribute and/or the state of information utilization, and based on the basic information selection taste data of said specific user;
registering said specific user model formed for each of plural users so as to correspond to respective users;
retrieving the information suiting one or more specific user model(s) based on said one or more specific user model(s) among a plurality of specific user models; and
forming a group user model on the basis of said plurality of specific user models and retrieving information based on the group user model, wherein said group user model is formed by a maximum value mode, minimum value mode or average value mode for selecting

Sub B1
the maximum value, minimum value or average value, respectively, of said plurality of specific user models.--

Sub B2
--3. (Amended) The information retrieval method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of storing said group user model, and reading it out in accordance with the request from a user to retrieve said information.--

--4. (Amended) the information retrieval method according to claim 1, wherein a method of forming said group user model is said maximum value mode for selecting the maximum value of said plurality of specific user models.--

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cont.
--5. (Amended) the information retrieval method according to claim 1, wherein a method of forming said group user model is said minimum value mode for selecting the minimum value of said plurality of specific user models.--

--6. (Amended) the information retrieval method according to claim 1, wherein a method of forming said group user model is said average value mode for selecting the average value of said plurality of specific user models.--

Sub B3
--7. (Amended) An information retrieval apparatus, comprising:
storing means for storing general user selection taste data comprising classification items and information contents on the basis of a general user group classified according to a user attribute and/or the state of information utilization;

specific user model forming means for forming a specific user's own specific user model based on said general user selection taste data read out from said storing means and basic information selection taste data of said specific user;

registering means for registering said specific user model formed for each of plural users so as to correspond to respective users, whereby a plurality of specific user models are registered;

group user model forming means for forming a group user model on the basis of said plurality of specific user models registered by said registering means, wherein said group user model is formed by a maximum value mode, minimum value mode or average value mode for selecting the maximum value, minimum value or average value, respectively, of said plurality of specific user models; and

retrieving means for retrieving information based on the group user model.--

--9. (Amended) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 7,
wherein:

said information retrieval apparatus comprises group user model storing means for storing said group user model; and

said group user model is read out from said group user model storing means in accordance with a request from a user to retrieve said information.--

--10. (Amended) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 7,
wherein said group user model forming means selects the maximum value of said plurality of specific user models to form a group user model.--

Q5
Cancel.

--11. (Amended) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 7,
wherein said group user model forming means selects the minimum value of said plurality of
specific user models to form a group user model.--

--12. (Amended) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 7,
wherein said group user model forming means selects the average value of said plurality of
specific user models to form a group user model.--

Please add the following new claims 13-16:

53015
Q6

--13. (New) An information retrieval method, comprising the steps of:
forming a specific user model for a specific user based at least upon the specific
user's own selection data;
registering said specific user model formed for each of plural users, whereby a
plurality of specific user models are registered and correspond to respective users; and
forming a group user model on the basis of said plurality of specific user models
and retrieving information based on the group user model;
wherein said group user model is formed by a maximum value mode, minimum
value mode or average value mode for selecting the maximum value, minimum value or average
value, respectively, of said plurality of specific user models.--

--14. (New) The information retrieval method of claim 13, wherein said group
user model is formed by said maximum value mode.--